

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5695

AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

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AMCONSUL CALI

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 10012

QUITO FOR US DELEGATION TO MFM CONFERENCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OAS, CO

SUBJECT: OAS MEETING VIEWED AS FAILURE

1. ALL BOGOTA DAILIES, IN THEIR NOV 12 EDITIONS HEADLINE THE QUITO CONFERENCE AS A PENDING FAILURE.

2. IN ADDITION TO THE AMPLE NEWS COVERAGE (ALMOST ENTIRELY BASED ON WIRE SERVICE REPORTS), THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS EDITORIALS SINCE THE OUTSET OF THE CONFERENCE. THE EDITORIAL COVERAGE HAS BEEN HEAVILY IN FAVOR OF THE LIFTING OF THE SANCTIONS ON CUBA. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER

VAZQUEZ, WRITING IN LIBERAL EL ESPECTADOR ON NOV 10, EVIDENTLY EXPECTING THE QUITO MEETING TO RESULT IN THE REMOVAL OF THE SANCTIONS,

REFERRED TO LATIN AMERICA RECOVERING ITS AUTONOMY AT QUITO WITH LATIN COUNTRIES PLAYING THE DECISIVE ROLE WITHOUT HAVING TO ACCEPT IT FROM THE "ANGLO-SAXON SUPERPOWER". VAZQUEZ, IN REVIEWING THE CUBA MATTER
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ASSERTS THAT CUBA INTERVENTION IN LATIN AMERICA WAS SIMULTANEOUS

WITH U.S. INTERVENTION IN CUBA AFFAIRS, WITH LATIN AMERICA BECOMING THE VICTIM OF A CONFRONTATION IT DIDNT START.

3. EARLIER (NOV 9) BOGOTA LEADING DAILY EL TIEMPO EDITORIALIZED THAT IT WAS THE COUNTRIES WHERE DEMOCRACY DOESNT EXIST THAT APPEAR TO BE HOLDING THE LINE AGAINST CUBA.

4. EL TIEMPO, IN A NOVEMBER 11 EDITORIAL, WARMLY SUPPORTED THE SPPECH MADE AT THE OAS MEETING BY FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO, URGING THE TERMINATION OF THE CUBAN SANCTION, AND LABELING THAT POLICY AS A LEFT-OVER OF THE COLD WAR.

5. LIEVANOS SUBSEQUENT HARSH COMMENTS INQUITO CONCERNING THE "UNACCUSTOMED SILENCE OF THE UNITED STATES" PROBABLY REPRESENT ONLY THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG. GOC OFFICIALS HAVE LONG WISHED TO SEE AN END TO THE CUBAN SANCTIONS. THEY HAVE, HOWEVER, BELIEVED THAT, IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE OAS AS A VIABLE HEMISPHERIC FORUM, THE SANCTIONS HAD TO BE REMOVED BY APPROPRIATE OAS ACTION. THEY HAD LOOKED TO THE QUITO MEETING AS AN OPPORTUNITY BOTH TO UPDATE HEMISPHERIC POLICY REGARDING CUBA AND TO PROVE THE WORKABILITY OF THE OAS MECHANISM AND HAD STAKED CONSIDERABLE PRESTIGE ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THOSE TWO GOALS.
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